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**Newsletter**  
**Number 02**  
**10 February 2012**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

**Newsletters (Keeping Informed)**

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website.

**Thanks**

- .. for prompt payment of school contributions and activity fees.
- .. to Sharon Martin, Jo Bruncker and Teresa Dunn who have volunteered to assist with timing of swimming heats on 21 February (any other offers of help would be welcome)
- .. to Robyn McKegg and Sonia Dodds for volunteering to co-ordinate the school garden club this year. Robyn and Sonia would be pleased to welcome other parents to their team.
- .. those parents helping out at next week's camp.

**People of the week**

- .. Those children who have made special efforts this past week to make both our new and our international students feel welcome.
- .. Those children who went to such lengths to keep their reading up over the holidays.

*Please keep us informed of the achievements of present and past pupils so that we can celebrate these together.*

**Best wishes ..**

To our year 5 and 6 children who are off to camp next week. Any last minute questions re camp to Mrs Gunson please.

**Term Events**

Please pencil the following dates into your calendar. We will advise of further dates as these come to hand.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 14-17 Feb | Year 5/6 camp at Lonsdale Park                         |
| 21 Feb    | Swimming heats (preparatory to school and zone events) |
| 22 Feb    | Tennis Doubles Tournament (pp 29.2)                    |
| 22 Feb    | Keeping Ourselves Safe parent meeting (Library 3:15)   |
| 24 Feb    | Learner Journey sheets home for parent input           |
| 24 Feb    | Indicator Reports home                                 |
| 27/28 Feb | Parent/teacher/student conferences                     |
| 29 Feb    | Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School                  |
| 13 March  | Keeping Ourselves Safe programme under way (2 weeks)   |
| 13 March  | Interschool Swimming Competitions (W.I.S.) pp 20.3     |
| 15 March  | School Swimming Sports                                 |
| 21 March  | Year 7/8 team triathlon (Marsden Cove)                 |
| 22 March  | Year 7/8 HPV and tetanus vaccinations                  |
| 25 March  | Year 7/8 individual triathlon (Onerahi Foreshore)      |
| 5 April   | Final day term 1                                       |

### **Keeping Ourselves Safe Parent Meeting**

The school will shortly be involving children in a number of units related to the topic of "keeping ourselves safe". This does involve issues like safe touching but includes a whole lot more. This unit of work will be facilitated, in part, by the Police Education Officer Jasmine Bundle, who (along with key staff) is willing to meet with parents on 22 February at 3.15 in the Library. Please advise Helen if you will be in attendance at this meeting.

### **Reading Logs**

If your child kept a reading log over the holidays please ask your child to drop this in to their teacher next week .. we are keen to affirm those who have really worked hard on these. National Library books issued at the end of last year may be held until further notice.

### **Survey to parents of children involved in Summer Reading Programme**

.. was sent out this week for return on Monday 13 please. It is important that your returns are as accurate as you can make them please.

### **Daily Absences**

Parents are reminded -

1. to advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day.
2. to follow up with a signed note specifying reason for non-attendance (Necessary in the event that our rolls are audited by the Ministry of Ed).

We also request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle

### **School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee / Spelling Books**

Please forward payment for the above to school at your earliest convenience. Early payment enables us to get things up and running early.

**If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact me to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.**

### **Stationery**

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the school office.

### **School Garden**

The first Garden Club meeting of 2012 is to be held on Wednesday 15 Feb at 12.45. This will get underway with a big clean up. Parent helpers most welcome.

### **Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)**

The above are scheduled for 27 and 28 February - an interview booking sheet will be **sent out on Monday** and advice of appointment times will be issued **week beginning 20 February**. Helen will do her best to give you your preferred times but these will ultimately be allocated on a first in basis. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (attendance optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

**Early Buses** - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 27 and 28 Feb because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

### **Special Needs Programme**

If your child has been selected for placement in one of Mrs Comrie's special needs programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible.

### **PMP**

We would really appreciate further offers to assist with this important programme. If able to help please give Mrs Robertson a call. PMP takes place every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon - even if you can help on one of these afternoons it enables us to give existing parent helpers the occasional break.

### **Pool Keys**

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$25 per family for the 2012 swimming season. Those who held their key last year in anticipation of using again this year will receive an invoice next week. Please send the money in asap. Many thanks.

### **Brief reminders ..**

- .. please use upper carpark or lower bus bay for drop off and pick up
- .. all children need water bottles, sun hats and swimming gear at school each day
- .. advise the office if you have altered pick up arrangements for your child
- .. ensure non-bus children are picked up no later than 3:25
- .. advise the office by 2:45 if your child will NOT be on their customary bus
- .. advise urgently of any changes to custody / address / contact or medical details.

**Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

### **After School Care**

All users of this programme are asked to register please. This can be done on line by visiting [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz) or alternatively by checking in with the programme manager here at school before the start of ASC. The standard of this programme has been significantly upgraded and large subsidies are available to most users. We hope parents will make full use of this programme to help ensure it is sustainable. Brochures are available from the school office.

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

The school headlice inspection has been scheduled for the morning of 12 February. We are desperate for offers of help and so .. if you are able to help with inspections please phone Donna Cates here at school. - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

### **Request from our Librarian**

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible.

### **Swimming Trials**

*Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

### **Parent Helpers**

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to help out in classrooms this year. We don't have too many offers at present (but know how busy life is for many of you) and so have extended the date for these forms to this coming Monday (13.2). If you can spare time please consider spending some of this time at school - this can really make a difference for both teachers and students. I hope to send a confirmed timetable out next week for official start up week beginning 20 February.

### **Scholastic Book Orders** .. watch this space!

### **Guitar Lessons**

There are a number of vacancies in this popular after school programme (Wednesday & Thursday in the Old School Room - by the upper car park). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email [killalea@ihug.co.nz](mailto:killalea@ihug.co.nz)

### **Friday Lunches**

.. starts next week. Term Order form attached. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 10 minutes in the morning and/or 15 minutes around mid-day to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

### **Monday Lunches**

If able to help with Monday lunches (around 45 minutes) from 12:00 on Mondays please give Helen a call. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

**Swan Plants** - Available at the School Office. Gold coin donation. All proceeds to the School.

### **Homework**

Homework is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights homework a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from homework altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing homework. **If you do NOT want your child to receive homework please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

*(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular homework routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).*

### **School charter**

A summary of our 2012 school charter will shortly be placed on our website (board tab) for those interested. This identifies some of the areas of special focus for this year. Kevin is more than happy to discuss this with any interested parties. Hardcopies are available from the school office on request.

### **Final thought**

Recent announcements by the Finance Minister (echoing Treasury advice) suggest that teacher / student ratios might be increased as a cost saving measure. The justification is that recent research (apparently) shows that class sizes don't make any significant difference to learning outcomes. While class numbers alone do not make a difference, lower class numbers make possible the things that the same research says do make a difference (e.g. student awareness of their next learning steps). This is a mischievous use of research and we all hope that common sense wins the day. I guess it's a matter of watch this space.

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

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children, please support them

### **Matarau Electrical Services**

RD1, Kamo, Whangarei  
Phone 09 433 5533

Andrew Coop  
Registered Electrician

### **A Message from our SKIDS Team**

*Our SKIDS 'Safe Kids in Daily Supervision' would be very pleased to answer any questions you may have in regards to the SKIDS after school program, which is up and running each day. We can now offer fun filled after school supervision until 6pm and remember you could qualify for a subsidy too!*

*Also, please let it be known to them if you would appreciate an Easter Holiday Program being available for your child. If there are enough numbers this could be something to look forward to. To contact Abby or Hannah text or call 0278461724 or pop into the school hall at the end of the school day. Alternatively you will find information and enrolment forms online at [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz)*

### **Community Notices**

**Garage Sale** – 72 Matarau Road, 300mtrs before school. Baby gear, toys, bikes, wetsuits (size 8-12), wooden bunk bed with single mattresses, books. All good condition. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 8am til 12noon.

**For Rent** - small, furnished accommodation available, on the Matarau School bus route. Please contact Jan 433 5000 or 0273 19 0273.

**Carpooling** - Anyone interested in carpooling from Apotu end of Crane Rd to Matarau School pls contact Shona 435 1555.

**Free** – to a good home, 4yr old female cat, all fixed up. Likes being outside. Please contact School Office 4335823.

**Need Help** – Student seeking 1 day's work a week. Enthusiastic gardener, experienced animal handler, some milking experience too. Call or text Loren 0210629867.

**Kamo Swimming Club**, starts again today 4.30pm. Held Monday's & Friday's til end of term, 30minute lesson at Kamo High School Pool. Club nights Wednesdays. Ring Helen on 433 5823 or Chris Sapwell on 433 5099 for more info.

**Nigel Latta** – Raising Boys & Raising Girls, from the "Politically Incorrect Parenting Show", Entertaining Evening, 1 March, 7.30-9.30pm, Kamo High School Hall, \$25. Tickets available from Kamo High School, Kamo Primary, Hurupaki Primary, Kamo Intermediate and Matarau Primary.

### **Cash for Communities**

Last year the farming community raised over \$80,000 for schools and community organisations around New Zealand with PGG Wrightson Cash for Communities. Any farmer who purchases Balance Agri-Nutrients fertiliser or selected agri-chemicals or seed on their PGG Wrightson account between 7 Feb and 31 May 2012 can earn cash for the school, simply by nominating the school at [www.pggwrightson.co.nz](http://www.pggwrightson.co.nz). For more info ph 0508276556.